

TAX MATTERS

**JUNE 26, 2009, Issue #09-25, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JUNE 17, 2009 (#09-24)

- **PAY 2009 TAX INFORMATION**
 - Certified PAY 2009 tax schedule, plus another chart comparing the rates to last year's.
- **TAX WORKSHOP – ARE YOU INTERESTED?**
 - As a result of the previous week's suggestion that we sponsor a workshop on trending, we received several positive responses and no negatives. We will continue to plan said event and need to know if you are interested.
- **PARKS DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE**
 - No animals or personal fireworks permitted at 4th of July celebration at Fairbanks Park.

JUNE 11, 2009 (#09-23)

- **TRENDING**
 - Trending has been practiced since 2002, but not understood by most taxpayers simply because they didn't care or realize how important trending is.
- **AS THE TASSEL TURNS**
 - The original number of students enrolled as Freshmen in the fall of 2005 was 1340. Some have moved into the county, some have moved away, but the bottom line is that approximately 346 students failed to graduate.

JUNE 4, 2009 (#09-22)

- **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS**
 - Address by Gov. Mitch Daniels concerning the problems passing a state budget
- **APPEALS PROCESS**
 - Indiana Department of Local Government Finance's Property Tax Assessment Appeals Process Fact Sheet - <http://www.in.gov/dlqf/files/PropertyTaxAppealsProcess.pdf>

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member.

1. THIS DAY IN HISTORY - TA WEB SITE UNVEILED TO MEMBERSHIP

Today may not bring recognition when you examine all of the dates that you memorized in your history class, but for the TA, it is indeed a day in history. Finally, after several months of mulling the topic and several months of experimentation, we are proud to announce that the Taxpayers Association has a working web site. This site, created by Matthew Hoxworth, includes past issues of TA publications, a forum area for discussions of your choice, the calendar of public meetings, and background information on the association.

Please take a few minutes to navigate to this site, sign up, and critique it. Let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can improve the quality or add to its content.

TA web site: www.taxtopics.org

2. CIRCUIT BREAKER CHART

The following is the 2008 PAY 2009 Vigo County Circuit Breaker Report, provided by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Nearly \$5.4 million of circuit breaker credit has been given to property owners this year.

TAXING DISTRICT	DLGF Taxing District Number	Taxing District Rate	Homestead Property Circuit Breaker Credit	Non-Homestead Residential Property Circuit Breaker Credit	Other Real and Personal Property Circuit Breaker Credit	Over 65 Circuit Breaker Credit	Total Circuit Breaker Credit
Fayette	001	1.7566	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572.42	\$ 572.42
Harrison	002	3.6348	\$ 157,743.78	\$ 3,347,519.28	\$ 759,024.10	\$ 91,580.08	\$ 4,355,867.24
Honey Creek Reg	003	1.8973	\$ 304.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,088.14	\$ 3,392.26
Honey Creek San	004	2.2122	\$ 1,260.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,441.74	\$ 5,701.76
TH Honey Creek	005	3.5909	\$ 606.12	\$ 73,513.10	\$ 180,612.50	\$ 1,427.02	\$ 256,158.74
Linton	006	1.7263	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,137.26	\$ 2,137.26
Lost Creek Reg	007	1.7499	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,507.70	\$ 1,507.70
Lost Creek San	008	2.0648	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,204.78	\$ 3,204.78
TH Lost Creek	009	3.6169	\$ 314,695.86	\$ 368,981.44	\$ 54,712.82	\$ 11,062.44	\$ 749,452.56
Seelyville	010	2.3371	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208.14	\$ 208.14
Nevins	011	1.7599	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,205.38	\$ 1,205.38
Otter Creek Reg	012	1.7342	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,234.56	\$ 1,234.56
Otter Creek San	013	2.0491	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,737.46	\$ 4,737.46
TH Otter Creek	014	3.6011	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,167.14	\$ -	\$ 3,167.14
Pierson	015	1.7627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203.86	\$ 203.86
Prairie Creek	016	1.7770	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 370.00	\$ 370.00
Prairieton	017	1.7847	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 802.56	\$ 802.56
Riley Reg	018	1.9318	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,898.26	\$ 5,898.26
Subtotal Circuit Breaker Credit			\$ 474,609.90	\$ 3,790,013.82	\$ 997,516.56	\$ 133,681.80	\$ 5,395,822.08

3. IMA's SPECIAL SESSION UPDATE

The following information is an update by the Indiana Manufacturers Association concerning the continuing negotiations concerning the state budget. The old budget expires Tuesday, June 30, at midnight. The last time the Indiana legislature failed to pass a budget by the deadline was 1887.

The legislature continues to negotiate with the purpose of agreeing on a two-year budget. The old budget expires on Tuesday, June 30, at midnight; and the state would be without legal authority to spend money to operate state government after that time. No budget could be agreed upon during the regular session; and it appears that the parties are still far from agreement. They say they intend to work over the weekend. Even today they are beginning to deal with their differences after several days of public testimony – almost entirely from those who want to spend state money. The House has a one-year budget with enhanced school spending by using state reserves. The Senate's version is a two-year budget and attempts to protect reserves.

The exception to “shutdown” of state government could be such functions of the state as the governor might, by executive order, keep open as a matter of “public safety” such as state hospitals, prisons and law enforcement. State law lays out five areas -- psychiatric hospitals, the schools for the deaf and blind, the veterans' home and a juvenile correctional facility -- to be kept open if no budget is passed.

However, the state constitution provides that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury" without legislative approval – meaning an appropriation.

Governor Daniels had said that he wouldn't have a “shutdown” on his watch, but apparently has become aware of the possibility. He has few options.

"We've researched the legal authority that we have, and all we can do is keep the most minimal services going on," the governor recently said. That would include public safety but few other things.

The question of what Daniels could legally keep running could be left to the courts; but even their operation is in doubt because court funding, too, is part of the state budget.

Indiana hasn't faced this kind of budget brinksmanship since 1993 when a budget was passed in the final hours of the legislative session; and the state hasn't missed the deadline to pass a budget since 1887.

Negotiations resume today, but lawmakers remain far apart on the issues, particularly on education funding.

PAST BUDGET IMPASSES – Rare Occurrences

1857: The General Assembly, because of a deadlock between the two parties, fails to make either a tax levy for general purposes or to pass a general appropriations act.

1863: Meeting under the intense emotions of the Civil War, Republican lawmakers walk out over a dispute between the GOP governor, Oliver P. Morton, and Democrats who controlled the House and Senate. To avoid calling lawmakers back into a special session to approve a budget,

Morton borrows federal and private funds, running state government with money drawn from his office safe.

1871: Stormy times and partisanship continue to prevail in this session. Again, a budget is not passed.

1887: The General Assembly accomplishes little in this session because of a partisan deadlock over who would replace Lt. Gov. Mahlon D. Manson, who resigned the previous year. The session adjourns without a budget being passed.

Source: Indiana Manufacturers Association

4. POSITION OPEN FOR COUNTY PARKS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Assistant Superintendent – Vigo County Park and Recreation Department

Master's Degree in Park and Recreation Administration, Natural Resources, Public Administration, or related area; supplemented by three to five years relevant work experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and ability for this position. Must possess strong administrative, finance and budget skills with public relations and writing ability. In conjunction and cooperation with the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent is responsible for the business administration and efficient operation of the Parks and Recreation Department of Vigo County. Position pays \$31,777.00. Position open September 1.

5. RECYCLE COMPUTERS AND GET A TAX CREDIT

Donate your computer or computer equipment at your Goodwill donation center. There is no charge for the drop off, and you may be able to deduct the value of the computer for tax purposes. Goodwill will provide donors with a donation receipt at the time of donation. Customers are encouraged to check with their tax advisors for more information.

The local Goodwill is located at 2702 South Third Street.

6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The purpose of this calendar is to encourage taxpayers to attend public meetings. Taxpaying persons working at your business or living in your neighborhood should be encouraged to attend a meeting of their choice at least once per year. The date and time for the meetings listed below are always subject to change. Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Tue. Jun. 30	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 1	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 1	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Jul. 2	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jul. 6	4:30 pm	Animal Control Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	
Mon. Jul. 6	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Jul. 7	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 7	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jul. 7	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Jul. 8	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Jul. 8	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jul. 8	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Jul. 9	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jul. 13	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jul. 13	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Jul. 13	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jul. 14	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 14	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Jul. 14	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Jul. 15	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Jul. 15	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 15	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Jul. 15	5:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Board of Health</u>	County Annex	Louise 462-3428
Thur. Jul. 16	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Tue. Jul. 21	12:00 noon	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting	Thompson Thrift	Bernard 235-1361

7. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again,
It was probably worth it.*

END

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